

Message Text

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PAGE 01 AMMAN 03598 201715Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SS-15 /026 W
-----106371 201724Z /43
P 201152Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5831

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3598

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER FROM PICKERING

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, JO, US
SUBJECT: TOW MISSILES

REF: A) AMMAN 3222, B) STATE 099968

1. I APPRECIATE YOUR FILLING ME IN ON YOUR IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE TOW MISSILE PROBLEM WHICH WE HAVE RAISED. IN GENERAL I AGREE WITH YOUR THESIS WHICH I TAKE TO BE THE FOLLOWING: ZHAT WE SHULD REPLACE TOW MISSILES FOR JORDAN SUBJECT TO CAVEATS ABOUT NORMAL ATTRITION AND SHELF LIFE AND THAT WE SHOULD DO SO FROM RECOUPMENTS OR OTHERWUS UNSPENT MAP FUNDS AT NO CHARGE TO JORDAN'S REGULAR GRANT PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, REPLACEMENT WITHIN THE ABOVE GUIDELINES SHOULD TAKE PLACE AS FAILURES OCCUR AND SHOULD NOT BE A WHOLESALE REPLACEMENT AS WE PROPOSED IN OUR MESSA3.

). WITH RESPECT TO THE CAVEATS OF NORMAL FAILURE RATIOS AND SHELF LIFE, WE HAVE JUST HAD A REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MANUFACTURER VISIT US AND HE PASSED ON SOME INTERESTING INFOJXATION WHICH DOD MAY NOT BE GIVING YOU.

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3. ACTUATOR BOTTLE FAILURE HAS NOT OCCURRED IN LOTS HELD BY THE U.S. ARMY. THE ONLY LOTS AFFECTED WERE THOSE IN FOREIGN HANDS. THE MANUFACTURER CANNOT PROVE IT, BUT BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE FAILURE OCCURS BECAUSE THE MISSILES IN THESE LOTS HAVE BEEN TESTED (BOTTLE VOLUME VERIFIED WITH WATER) IN A WAY NOT USED ON OTHERS. THE TEST WAS A

RANDOM SAMPLE SO NOT ALL MISSILES WILL BE INVOLVED, ONLY A SMALL PERCENTAGE. SINCE THE U.S. ARMY'S FAILURE RATE IS NOT INVOLVED IN THE COFTROVERSY, I.E., THE 2.5 PCT COVERS OTHER NORMAL AND EXPECTED FAILURES. I BELIEVE WE HAVE A VERY GOOD CASE FOR REPLACING ALL ACTUATOR BOTTLE FAILURES, NOT JUST THOSE OVER THE 2.5 PCT SINCE THAT FIGURE APPARENTLY RELATES TO OTHER KINDS OF PROBLEMS.

4. ON SHELF LIFE, THE ORIGINAL FIGURE, WHICH ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE* WAS FIVE YEARS, HAS BEEN INCREASED TO NINE AND NOW BEING CONSIDERED TO GO UP TO ELEVEN YEARS. IF THIS IS TRUE IT SHOULD PRESENT NO PROBLEMS HERE. JORDANIANS GOT THIS LOT OF MISSILES, WE BELIEVE, OFF THE U.S. ARMY SHELF AND IT WAS ALREADY SOMEWHAT ELDERLY WHEN IT ARRIVED, ALTHOUGH THEY INSISTED ON GETTING IT RIGHT AWAY OUT OF INVENTORY.

5. RANK-AND-FILE CONFIDENCE IS MOST IMPORTANT. MISSILE FAILURE CAN BE DETECTED BY VISUAL INSPECTION. REPLACEMENT AS YOU SUGGESTED, SUBJECT TO POINTS WE HAVE ADDED, SHOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM. MANY THANKS. PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MISSILES, BRIEFING MATERIALS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978AMMAN03598
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-0518
Format: TEL
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780437/aaaabezv.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 713901ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: 78 AMMAN 3222, 78 STATE 99968
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2909292
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TOW MISSILES
TAGS: MASS, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/713901ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014